

## SEX CHARACTERISTIC SURGICAL PROCEDURES

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SB 16 Senator Mike Kennedy

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### Reality Versus Fantasy in Middle Childhood and Adolescent Development

1. Young children are not able to distinguish between reality and fantasy. As they age into middle childhood, they begin to categorize reality from fantasy. However, the process is slow and continues through adolescence.
2. Childhood fantasy play promotes brain development, socialization, and emotional regulation. Fantasy contributes to creativity, coping skills, problem-solving, and healthy social interactions. Brain development is not complete until age 25 or older.
3. Adolescents continue partial fantasy in the form of adolescent egocentrism: thinking intensely about themselves and what others think of them. The following are examples of adolescent egocentrism:
  - a. *personal fable*: belief that one is unique, special, heroic, or troubles/gains are more extreme than others
  - b. *invincibility fable*: belief they cannot get hurt which leads to risky behaviors
  - c. *imaginary audience*: belief they are on center stage, and everyone is watching and judging them.
  - d. *Identity development*: time to explore identity, curiosity, belonging to groups, trying on different hats, identity is not formed completely during adolescence

### References

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